

Gateshead firm welcomes non-executive director

by James Marley, *The Journal* (<http://www.journallive.co.uk/>)

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ONE of the UK's leading industrialists has joined the board of a growing Tyneside company. Gateshead-based International Innovative Technologies Ltd (IIT) has strengthened its management team with the addition of Juergen Maier.

Maier is managing director of Siemens Industry Sector in the UK

and Ireland.

IIT employs a team of engineers specialising in the design, precision engineering and manufacture of a range of mills for grinding minerals in the construction, aggregates and recycling sectors.

Maier will be joining the company as a non-executive director to help with the international market and technology development of IIT's groundbreaking range of products and new technologies.

IIT currently has 25 staff and this should grow to 50 over the next 12 months. And within the next two or three years it is hoped the number could rise to 100 at its state-of-the-art factory in the Team Valley.

This will involve recruitment of high calibre engineers, technologists and scientists.

IIT is a private company formed by four founders, including the chairman Tom Wilkinson and managing director George Ord. Wilkinson and Ord were both directors of the former North East Innovation Centre.

Wilkinson said: "For a small innovative company in the North East to get this guy joining us is quite a coup. It tells you everything about what he thinks about us and the technology. "His



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unrivalled engineering sector experience in international markets will be a major asset to the company's continued development and product introduction programme."

In his role with Siemens Industry Sector, Maier is responsible for a £600m operation employing around 2,000 people. Prior to taking up his current position in October 2008, he held a number of senior European roles within Siemens in the UK and Germany, including director of Industrial Controls, two divisional managing director roles and manufacturing director of Siemens' award winning motion control factory in Congleton, Cheshire.

Maier is also a board member of the sector skills council, SEMTA, and manufacturers' organisation, the EEF.

He said: "I am looking forward to working with the team at IIT to support driving this innovative business to the next level. With its focus on engineering product design, process development and low energy manufacturing systems, IIT is an ideal fit with my passion for the UK manufacturing sector."

Since becoming established IIT has developed various low energy technologies and recently introduced a new patented low energy powder milling process.

Other innovative products are also being developed, including new fuel enrichment technology for improving coal fired power station efficiency.

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